

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Allowance of Claims 59-94.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 59-94.

2. Allowability of Claims 39-43 and 53-57.

The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 39-43 and 53-57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Rejection of Claims 31-38, 44-52 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 31-38, 44-52 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stafford (U.S. No. 5,504,575).

The Applicant has canceled the claims that were rejected as being anticipated by Stafford. Cancellation of those claims is without prejudice or disclaimer and should be in no way construed as an admission that the Applicant agrees with the grounds for rejection. To the contrary, the Applicant has canceled those claims solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of this application in view of the allowed and allowable claims, and to defer addressing the rejection based on Stafford until a later date through the filing of a continuation application. Because the Stafford reference is

being considered in pending reexamination proceedings of two previously issued related patents, the Applicant chooses not to address that reference at this time.

4. Presentation of Claims 95-144.

The Applicant is presenting herewith new Claims 95-144 in view of the indication of allowability of Claims 39-43 and 53-57, which have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 95-119 correspond to Claims 39-43 and Claims 120-144 correspond to Claims 53-57. Of these claims:

- (a) Claims 95-100 are independent (corresponding to Claim 39).
- (b) Claim 101 is multiple dependent from Claims 95-100 (corresponding to Claim 40).
- (c) Claims 102-107 are independent (corresponding to Claim 41).
- (d) Claims 108-113 are independent (corresponding to Claim 42).
- (e) Claims 114-119 are independent (corresponding to Claim 43).
- (d) Claims 120-125 are independent (corresponding to Claim 53).
- (e) Claim 126 is multiple dependent from Claims 120-125 (corresponding to Claim 54).
- (f) Claims 127-132 are independent (corresponding to Claim 55).
- (g) Claims 133-138 are independent (corresponding to Claim 56).
- (h) Claims 139-144 are independent (corresponding to Claim 57).

5. Conclusion.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is

believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

Date: _____

9/5/02

Respectfully submitted,


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